

Dear Friend,

After the first six months as your representative in Congress, I wanted to take another opportunity to bring you up to speed on the accomplishments that are going to help people in greater Cincinnati and across the country.

Congress took an important step this month toward fiscal discipline by passing a statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) bill. The legislation requires Congress to pay for the costs of tax cuts or increases in entitlement spending with savings elsewhere in the budget. When PAYGO expired in 2002, Congress and the administration allowed the out-of-control spending that has led to the largest deficits in our history. This legislation restores the common-sense rules that led to the balanced budgets and record surpluses of the late 1990s. We have a long way to go to make the federal government more responsible and accountable to the American people, but passage of this legislation is an important step toward restoring fiscal discipline in Washington.

I was proud last month to support the [American Clean Energy and Security Act](#), legislation that will strengthen our economic and national security by reducing our nation's dependence on imported oil and making investments in clean energy development. I was concerned that early versions of this legislation would place an unfair burden on ratepayers in southwest Ohio, so I joined with other moderate Democrats to fight for a wide range of protections that will keep costs low for customers in states such as Ohio that rely on coal for electric power. With those changes, Congress passed a strong but reasonable bill that's going to put us on a path toward a clean energy economy and help to revitalize Ohio's manufacturing sector and workforce.

Most recently, Congress took up the long overdue task of reforming the way healthcare works in this country. This is a top priority, and we need to enact meaningful reform this year to put an end to the growing healthcare crisis that is leaving more and more Americans overburdened by costs or without any health insurance at all. In addition to expanding access and reducing costs for families, I believe reform efforts must ensure that patients cannot be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions and that individuals won't have to worry about losing coverage if they change jobs. At the same time, we need to ensure that protections are put in place so that small businesses aren't unduly burdened by the costs of reform efforts. We need to find solutions that will bring needed reform without adding to our deficit or raising taxes on working families. By focusing on savings and rooting out waste, we can improve healthcare for all Americans in a fiscally responsible way. Major healthcare legislation is currently being debated in both houses of Congress, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress toward reform that ensures the greatest peace of mind and stability for Ohio families and provides quality, affordable healthcare for every single American.

I'm interested in knowing your position on healthcare reform, our economic recovery, and any other concerns that you have. Please don't hesitate to contact my offices in Cincinnati and Washington, where my staff are happy to hear from you and offer help with a wide range of services.

Thank you for the continued honor of serving Ohio's First Congressional District.

Sincerely,

Steve Driehaus Member of Congress